

If you are at least
18 years old and are

applying for a Michigan

driver's license or have

never had a driver's license,

you will need to follow these steps.

Applying for Your First Driver's License at Age 18 or Older

A Step-By-Step Guide
For Getting Your
Michigan Driver's License



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www.Michigan.gov/sos

Steps to obtaining a Michigan driver's license

1. Read "What Every Driver Must Know" & "Driving Skills Test Study Guide."

These booklets will help you prepare for the tests you'll need to take. Copies of the booklets are available on www.Michigan.gov/sos or at any Secretary of State branch office. Use our online Branch Office Locator to find an office near you.

2. Visit your Secretary of State office with proof of identity, residency and Social Security number.

A. Identity

You'll need three specific documents for **proof of identity**.

Bring at least one of these documents which lists your full name and your date of birth – no faxes or photocopies:

- A certified U.S. or Canadian birth certificate with a raised seal or one that is a true copy. Hospital birth certificates are not acceptable.
- A U.S. military identification or dependent identification card with your photo.
- An out-of-state or Canadian driver's license or ID card with your photo.
- A U.S. or Canadian passport, or a foreign passport translated into English.
- A resident alien or permanent resident card.
- Certificate of U.S. Naturalization or Certificate of U.S. Citizenship.

Bring at least two of these documents – no faxes or photocopies:

- A driver's license from another country (other than Canada), translated into English.
- A birth certificate, marriage license or divorce decree from another country, translated into English.
- A U.S. Department of State visa.
- A title, registration, marriage license or divorce decree from Michigan or another state.
- A photo ID card, adoption record or driver education certificate from Michigan.
- U.S. military discharge or separation papers.
- An out-of-state or Canadian driver's license with your photo.
- Your U.S. school, college or university identification card with your photo.

Other documents may be acceptable. Visit our Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos for more information.

B. Residency

Bring at least one of these documents with you – no faxes or photocopies. You **MUST** be a Michigan resident to get a Michigan driver's license.

Acceptable documents include:

- Utility bills, except cell phone bills
- Bank statements with recent Michigan activity
- Insurance policies
- Pay stubs
- Rental agreements
- Government documents

C. Social Security number

You will need to provide your Social Security number. If you don't have one, go to our Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos for more information.

3. Take the written knowledge test, road signs test and vision test to get a Temporary Instruction Permit.

You must pass the written knowledge, vision and road signs tests and pay \$25 before you can get a Temporary Instruction Permit. A TIP allows you to practice driving with a licensed adult or driver education instructor.

The written test, road signs test, 30-day driving practice and driving skills test are waived if you are converting a valid license from another state or Canada. A written test is required for licenses with hazardous materials endorsements.

4. Practice driving.

Practice the basic control and on-the-road driving skills in the Driving Skills Test Study Guide. A licensed adult must be with you at all times. You must practice at least 30 days before taking your skills test. Although driver education is not required for anyone over 18, it is highly recommended. You will find driver education providers in the phone book under "driving instruction." Costs and hours will vary. Not all providers offer driver education for adults, so make sure to ask.

5. Take your driving skills test.

Driving skills tests are provided by third-party testing organizations. See the Secretary of State Web site at www.Michigan.gov/sos for a list of test sites or look in the phone book. Costs and hours will vary.

6. After passing your skills test, return to a Secretary of State branch office.

Bring your skills test certificate, TIP and identification documents with you. If this is your very first license, you will be on probation for three years. Some medical conditions could mean restrictions on your license.

If you are applying for a special license, such as a chauffeur's license, Commercial Driver License or a motorcycle endorsement, you must pass the required written and skills tests before a Michigan license can be issued.